areas. The SGRY is open for all rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual and unskilled work in and around his village/habitat.

**Agro-based Industries in Uttaranchal**

†*453. SHRI HARISH RAWAT. Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small and tiny agro based industries alongwith the number of persons employed therein in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that a large number of such small cottage and rural industries have been closed down during last few years; and

(c) if so, the number of industries so closed and the number of persons rendered unemployed as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) So far, 1794 rural industries, including agro based industries, have been set up generating 29,389 employment opportunities, in the State of Uttaranchal under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

(b) No, Sir. However, some units do close down

(c) Such information is not maintained centrally.

**Modernisation of Postal Department**

*454. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what measures the Department of Posts is taking towards its modernisation;

(b) how optimally the Department of Posts is utilising the V-Sats;

(c) the details of the centres that are covered by V-Sat in the country, State-wise; and

(d) what sort of business the Department of Posts is looking for, apart from regular post and e-post?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi